

Present:

Steve Johns – Chairman	Eric Griffin – Public Works
Rob McDonough – Vice Chairman	Greta Dige – city of Helena
Joel Redding – Member	Larry Hoffman - Coordinator
Orville Johnson – Member	Jim McCormick - BoCC
Bob Bushnell – Member	Judith Anne Vincent – MWCA
Mike Cobb - Member	

Call to Order: - Steve Johns – Chairman - Called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM with 6 board members present, 4 ex-official persons and 1 guest/public present.

Introductions: - Steve Johns – Chairman – No Introductions needed.

Minutes: Bob Bushnell made a motion to approve the minutes as sent. Seconded by Rob McDonough and approved.

Budget Report/Claims: - Bob Bushnell made a motion to approve the budget report and pay all outstanding bills. Second of the motion was by Joel Redding and approved.

Public Comment: -

Judith Anne Vincent – Plant Identification requested. MWCA photo contest is asking for pictures for the 2018 calendar. “Up The Creek” – RAC project for 2017/2018 season – Maps of areas (16) have been completed for the \$15,000 plus two year project. The project initial spraying will start in about two weeks and will be working with Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management..

Correspondence: .

- Monthly Weed Post
- Mussel Response Team
- RMFWR – Events and Projects
- Dearborn Spray Day flier
- Lincoln Vegetation Management - Training
- Blackfoot Weed Committee Meeting

REPORTS:

BoCC – Jim McCormick – New Chief Administrator – The commission is hard at work on the 2018 budgets development plus bonding/mills for the county. Rodger Baltz is now on the job – taking the place of Eric Bryson. Keeping an eye on the federal funding – SRS, PILT etc.. Federal budget was passed through September to keep the government going..

Public Works – Eric Griffin – Sweeping, patching and grading are in full swing. Bridge projects are in the works for the county along with finishing up Rimini, Marysville and Bear Tooth projects.

City of Helena – Greta Dige – Busy ah! Trakit is being tested. City is ready for the weed enforcement portion and both county and city will be doing additional training. Weeds are growing and a contractor – Helena Weed Control – has been selected for 2017 season. Greta will be sending letters to grant area persons and advertising on radio and newspaper for project awareness.

Board Reports:

Augusta Area: Mike Cobb – Timing is the key to getting on the management of weeds. Producers spraying in late June or July are too late for some noxious weeds – education is needed. Forest Service met with producers on fire reduction. White top at the stockyards needs to be managed. Discussion was had on gravel pits in the Augusta area

Canyon Creek Area: Steve Johns – Checked out the canyon and things are growing. Steve feels that he may need to have a spray day in the Canyon Creek area.

Central Area: Joe Redding – Warming weather has brought on white top everywhere.

East Area: Dave Lewis – E-mail; He is putting a lawn down as a family project – free labor!

Lincoln Area: Bob Bushnell – Lincoln area is “almost” warmed up. Cheat grass is growing and is a major problem in several areas of right of ways.

Helena/South Area: Orville Johnson – Warm weather has brought the weeds on. Cheat grass looks to be a problem this season.

West Area: No board member.

Wolf Creek Area: Rob McDonough – Hounds tongue in the floret stage and should be managed now.

Coordinator Report: Larry Hoffman – Program summary - 2017 season preparations, Stewardship project, Legislation, FS and BLM project development, RAC hearings, Mosquito contracts, Seasonal personnel interviews, Communications development, Planning Department session/WD process, Management plan reviews, attorney updates, Inspections, Weed IDs, Recycling project and Chemical orders for beginning of 2017 season.

Planner report – Mike Bacon – April 17th through May 2nd – Inspections for non-compliance – 10, compliant – 5, and site visits -1 = a total of 16

Action Items:

Advertisement- In support of weed management training program for the Lincoln area of \$ 52 for 2 weeks with the Blackfoot News. Bob Bushnell made a motion to pay for the advertisement for the Lincoln Vegetation Management Group training session that will be held May 4th in Lincoln. Mike Cobb seconded the motion and board approved.

New Business:

Operation Update – The shop is in full swing. All trucks and rentals are ready for the season. Presently we will have full slate of crew members for the season. As of 5/16/17 we will be losing Joe Walsh – Going to a full time position.

Dearborn Spray Day – Planning session scheduled for May 18th at 5:00 pm at the Dearborn Community Center.

Producer Program – Herbicide deliveries – Augusta and Wolf Creek will take place May 18, 2017.

Old Business:

Bio Support – Letter has been submitted to Audra Zacherl. to get an amendment for the 2017 budget to support the board members recommendation to sponsor the bio project for \$1000 from the community projects.

Small Landowner Stewardship Report – The development group – NRCS, conservation District, Water Quality District and Weed District have initiated the development of an educational series to take place in the fall and winter of 2017-2018. Weed District staff members are in the process to put together weed management educational packet for the program presentations.

Legislation Update – Bills related to weed management. All bills passed or to be signed by the governor will not affect weed district operations.

HB-126, 232,434, 444, and 622 on noxious weed – To governor

HB – 353, 410, 575, 540, and 646 – SB -232 –Dead and SB-363 Committee formed.

Other Business:

RAC Report – Lincoln Snow Warriors and Canyon Creek projects were selected for 2017 season.

Lewis and Clark Conservation District Report – Next meeting is scheduled for May 11th at 1:00 pm at the Augusta Youth Center.

Lincoln Vegetation Group Report – A group of landowners in the Keep Cool and Dalton areas will be working with the District to apply for a Weed Trust Fund Grant in 2018

Announcements: **Next Board Meeting** – The next Weed District Meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2017 at 1:00pm in the Weed Conference Room

Lewis and Clark Conservation District meeting May 11, 2017 at 1:00 pm

Adjournment: Adjourned 1:57 P.M.